

# **METHOD FOR SETTING SYSTEM WORKING FREQUENCY**

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a method for setting system working frequency and particularly a method for setting system working frequency in a computer reset condition.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10 [0002] The rapid development of information industry and wide applications of computers have made the computer an essential electric appliance in general households. However, computer equipment generally have very short product life cycle. New products are constantly introduced. To match computer system upgrade, users often have to replace a portion of the equipment.

15 [0003] Take computer CPU for instance. Most large CPU manufacturers in the world today, such as Intel and AMD, have different working frequencies for their CPU products. Even CPUs of the same type may have different working frequencies. In addition, memories also have different working frequencies. In order to improve system operation effectiveness and flexibility, or to match the working pulse of the elements on the mainboard, these days most computers provide a functional design  
20 that enables users to set system working frequency.

[0004] Referring to FIG. 1 for a process flow of setting system working frequency adopted in conventional techniques. The process steps include: turning on power supply (10); executing computer reset and asserting reset (11); deasserting reset and starting CPU (12); determining whether the system working frequency matching the  
25 system working frequency set by BIOS (13); if the system working frequencies do not match, executing modulation programs of clock chip by CPU and adjusting the system working frequency to match the value of BIOS (14), then returning to step 11; if the system working frequencies match, proceeding and completing the subsequent initialization process (15).

30 [0005] In the process flow set forth above, when the computer asserts reset, the chipset, CPU and peripheral devices enter in an initialization state, then deassert reset is performed. Meanwhile the system proceeds operations according to the initialized

working frequency of the clock chip. In general, the initialized working frequency of the clock chip is preset when the computer was shipped from the plant. If the initialized working frequency is different from what users have set, the working frequency of the clock chip is modulated by BIOS for matching the frequency set by the users. Then the system must be reset again so that it is able to operate according to the frequency set by the users, and to complete the subsequent system initialization process.

[0006] The biggest disadvantage of the conventional techniques is that if the working frequency set by users is different from the initialization, the computer must be reset twice before completing the setting of system working frequency. As a result, initialization time is longer. It also may cause dysfunction of the chipset or elements on the computer mainboard, or even result in system down. Hence to improve the method of setting system working frequency has become an important issue to computer system developers. The goal is to streamline the setting process of system working frequency.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The primary object of the invention is to provide a method for setting system working frequency that does not need extra assert reset during computer initialization, so that computer initialization time is reduced and dysfunction of the chipset or elements caused by repeated assert reset may be avoided.

[0008] The method for setting system working frequency according to the invention includes the steps of: first, asserting reset; modulating system working frequency according to the set value of BIOS by means of a jumper-free IC; closing the reset and starting the CPU; finally proceeding and completing subsequent initialization process.

[0009] The biggest difference between the invention and the conventional techniques is that conventional techniques have to start the CPU after assert reset, and to modulate the system working frequency when having discovered the system working frequency did not match the set value of BIOS, then restart another assert reset to proceed the subsequent initialization process. The invention employs a jumper-free IC to modulate the system working frequency according to the set value of BIOS while the computer is in the condition of processing reset. The CPU is started after

deassert reset has been completed. Then subsequent initialization process is performed.

5 [0010] Because the invention employs a jumper-free IC to set the system working frequency during the asset reset process is underway, and the CPU is started after the deassert reset has been finished, the whole initialization process requires assert reset only once to complete setting of the system working frequency. Thus computer initialization time can be reduced, and dysfunction of the chipset or elements caused by too many executions of assert reset may be avoided.

10 [0011] The foregoing, as well as additional objects, features and advantages of the invention will be more readily apparent from the subsequent detailed description, which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

15 [0012] FIG. 1 is a process flow of setting system working frequency of conventional techniques.

[0013] FIG. 2 is a process flow of setting system working frequency of the invention.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

20 [0014] The method for setting system working frequency of the invention aims at using a jumper-free IC to set system working frequency during executing the computer assert reset process and starting the CPU according to the set value after the computer has finished deassert reset. Details of the method will be elaborated below accompanying the preferred embodiment and related drawings.

25 [0015] Refer to FIG. 2 for the process flow of the method of the invention. It includes the steps of: first, executing computer reset and assert rest (20); determining whether the jumper-free IC has been set and whether the previous computer initialization was successful (23); if the jumper-free IC has been set, modulating system working frequency according to the set value (24), then proceeding deassert reset and starting the CPU (22); otherwise, if there was no setting or the previous computer  
30 initialization failed, directly going to step (22); determining whether the jumper-free IC internal setting matching the system working frequency set by BIOS (25); if the settings are matched, continuing subsequent initialization process until finished (26),

otherwise, writing the CPU working frequency set by BIOS into the jumper-free IC (27), then going to step 20 and executing assert reset again.

5 [0016] The biggest difference between the invention and the conventional techniques is that the invention modulates the system working frequency while the computer is in assert reset. In addition, the invention includes a jumper-free IC to meet the requirement of modulating the system working frequency. The jumper-free IC is an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) to directly change the system working frequency by controlling the voltage of the jumper. When an user enters the set menu of BIOS and has completed the setting of the system working frequency, the set  
10 values are written simultaneously into the jumper-free IC. And during the assert reset process, the system working frequency is modulated. Thus after the assert reset at step 20 is started to execute, the jumper-free IC determines whether to use the set values written previously to set the system frequency based on whether the previous initialization was successful to avoid the frequency being set too high and result in  
15 initialization failure.

[0017] As the invention employs the jumper-free IC to set the system working frequency while the computer is assert reset, and after the deassert reset is completed, the CPU is started based on the working frequency that was newly set, the computer requires assert reset only once during initialization to complete the setting of system  
20 working frequency. It saves computer initialization time, and also can prevent dysfunction of the chipset or elements on the mainboard that might otherwise occur due to too many assert reset during computer initialization process.

[0018] While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been set forth for the purpose of disclosure, modifications of the disclosed embodiment of the invention as  
25 well as other embodiments thereof may occur to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the appended claims are intended to cover all embodiments which do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention.